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March 3, 2009 LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

Raised H.B. No. 6502 *AN ACT CONCERNING THE STANDARD WAGE FOR CERTAIN CONNECTICUT WORKERS*

My name is William Green and I am a Vice President at CW Resources, Inc. I'm in charge of overseeing our Janitorial Projects with CCPA. Thank you for allowing me to comment on Raised Bill No. 6502. We, CW Resources, Inc.(CW), oppose H.B. 6502 as written because we believe that it eliminates opportunities for persons with disabilities to obtain standard wage jobs. These jobs become even more important in these uncertain economic times. My experience is that during these difficult times, workers with disabilities are the first to loose there jobs and also have the most difficulties in finding new employment. Making such jobs available to our clients is an essential part of legislation passed unanimously by the Legislature in 2006 as Public Act 06-126 and codified in the Connecticut General Statues as **4a-82 sections (0) and (p).**

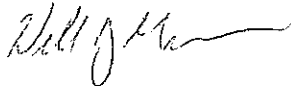
CW, serves over 900 persons with disabilities per year, 45 persons with economic disadvantages per year. The jobs that have been created through The *State Preferred Purchasing Program* have become in invaluable resource of employment for people with disability, any changes to the program which would diminish opportunities for people with disability would have adverse affect on employment opportunity but would also have devastating affect on those already working in the program. Last year this program created more than 286 valuable community jobs of more than 60,000 labor

Labor and Public Employee Committee
William Green

hours resulting in \$679,235. The *State Preferred Purchasing Program* is a key program for CW allowing over 50 of our clients the opportunity to have meaningful standard wage jobs providing livable wages for them. These wages reduces the amount of entitlements originally received by our workers. Language in H.B. 6502 requires that a new contractor “shall retain all employees who had been performing services under such predecessor contract for at least ninety days following or after the date of first performance of services under the successor service contract” As written, this language eliminates the ability of workers with disabilities to obtain standard wage jobs through the State’s *Preferred Purchasing Program (17b-656)*.

This statue requires that 75% of the labor on a contract be performed by people with Disabilities. If a provider can not put workers with disabilities on a new contract, they can not comply with the statutory requirement. Sections (O) and (P) of **4a-82** address this concern by allowing providers to obtain standard wage contracts of a limited size. If this language was incorporated into H.B 6502 we would no further objection to it.

Thank you.



William J Green
Vice President Contract Services
CW Resources